

SECRET

IDEA-0363

3 July 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Meeting at JRC, 30 June 1961, re TACKLE Operation

1. On 30 June at 1000 hours a meeting was convened with the Chief of the JRC, Captain Christensen, Colonel Ragsdale of the JCS Staff, Colonel Steakley from USAF, and the undersigned. The purpose of the gathering was to discuss alternate ways of accomplishing the TACKLE operation. This request was received from the State Department (Mr. McAfee) who had been in contact with the DOD and who had been told by them to discuss this matter with the Agency since the TACKLE proposal has to do with Agency assets.

2. The meeting actually covered three subjects: The first subject was the JRC's presentation to the JCS, i. e., format, types of information, etc., concerning peripheral operations for some sensitive overflight operations. The second subject was the manner in which information on Agency operations would be passed to the JRC and who would be briefed on these operations. The third subject involved alternate aircraft for accomplishing the TACKLE operation.

3. The briefing format used by JRC gives a composite picture of all photographic ELINT [] operations. This includes [] (RF-101, RB-57D and NATO missions). The Agency aspect included the [] program and the U-2 Cuba overflights. DPD did not know that these were being briefed by the JRC. As a result of this presentation, it was requested from the JRC that they draw up an agreement that would outline the manner in which the information was passed to the JRC and who, specifically, would be briefed on Agency operations. Until this is received and the agreement approved by the parties concerned, no detailed operations material, i. e., routes, times, will be passed to the JRC. The expected draft should arrive the week of 3 July.

This document contains information
referring to []

JCS review(s)
completed.

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4. The next subject discussed was the use of alternate aircraft in the TACKLE operation. It was mutually agreed that the position of the DOD and the Agency would be that the only aircraft to accomplish this mission was the U-2. This provided the best photographic coverage, in addition to reducing the operational risk to a minimum, and that any other aircraft would increase the risk and reduce the quality and coverage of the take. Two possible aircraft were discussed: RF-101 and RB-57D. The RF-101 is being used for low altitude; thus its range is limited and it would require a staging from a third country. In addition, since the aircraft is operated at low altitude, photographic coverage would be limited or several passes would have to be made at each target. In reference to the RB-57D, there are presently four in combat-ready configuration. They are in Germany and the Air Force felt very strongly about maintaining this capability in that area at this time. In comparing the RB-57D to the U-2, the reliability and altitude characteristics of the aircraft ^{RB-57D} ~~compensated~~ ^{compromised} for the operational ^{advantages} ~~limitations~~ ^{of that aircraft}. In summary, it was agreed that the Agency and the DOD would both emphasize the desirability of using the U-2 aircraft for this operation and that any other proposal would be a compromise and would proportionately increase the risk. Secondly, any comments about an alternate aircraft would be made by the DOD since they were the operators of that equipment.

(Signed) Stanley W. Beerli

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